

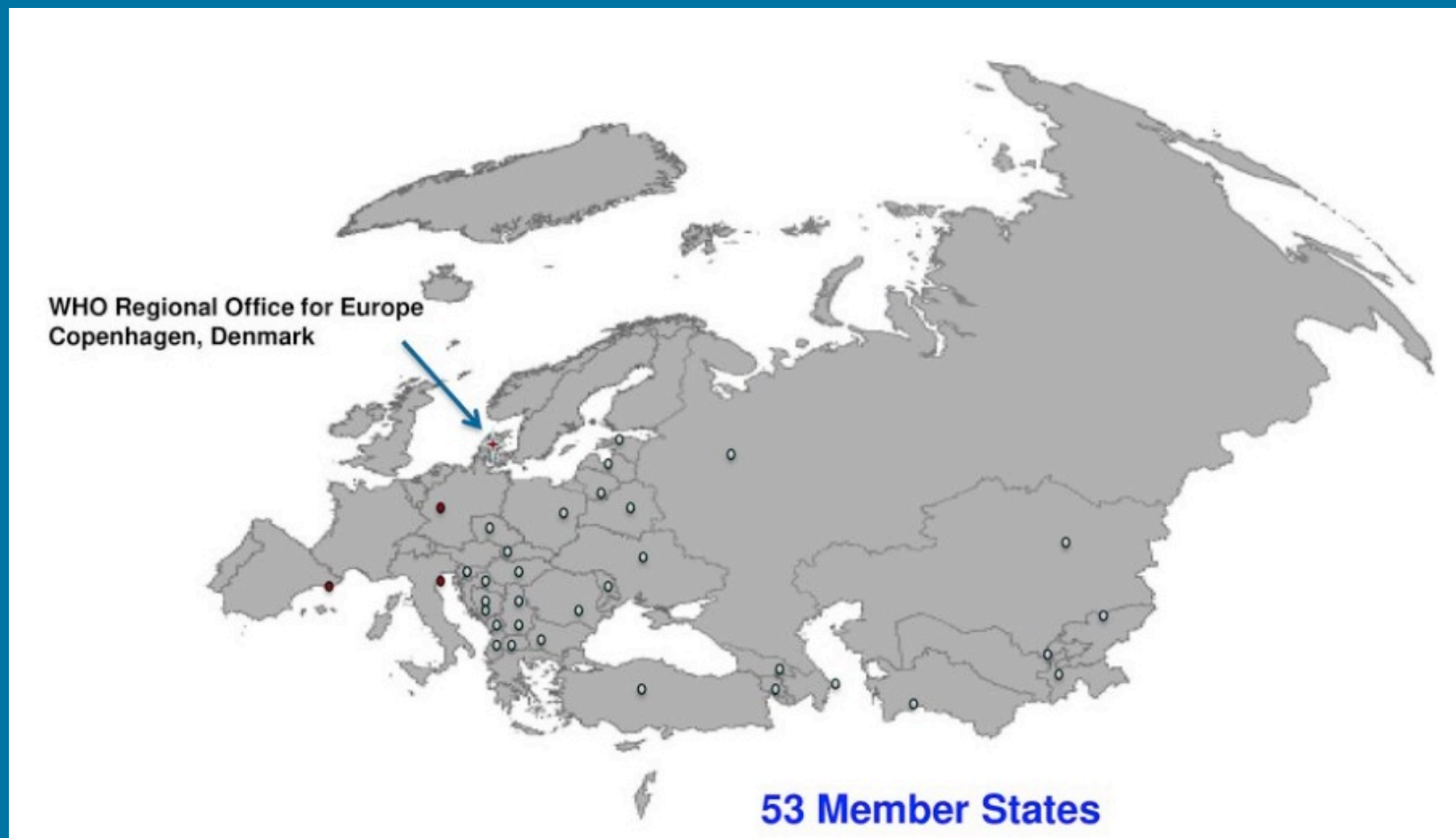
# Strengthening integrated long-term care service delivery in the European region



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# Disability, Rehabilitation, Palliative and Long-term care in the WHO European Region



# The Long-term care system

... encompasses all organizations, people and actions aiming to promote, maintain or improve wellbeing, health and functional ability for individuals with limitations in intrinsic capacity (WHO, 2021).

Care services should be delivered in an **integrated and person-centred manner along a continuum of care** that includes preventive, promotive, rehabilitative, curative, assistive care, palliative care, as well as carer support.

Such care activities span the boundaries between health, long-term care and social protection systems – **integrated delivery of care requires coherent policies and processes across the three sectors**

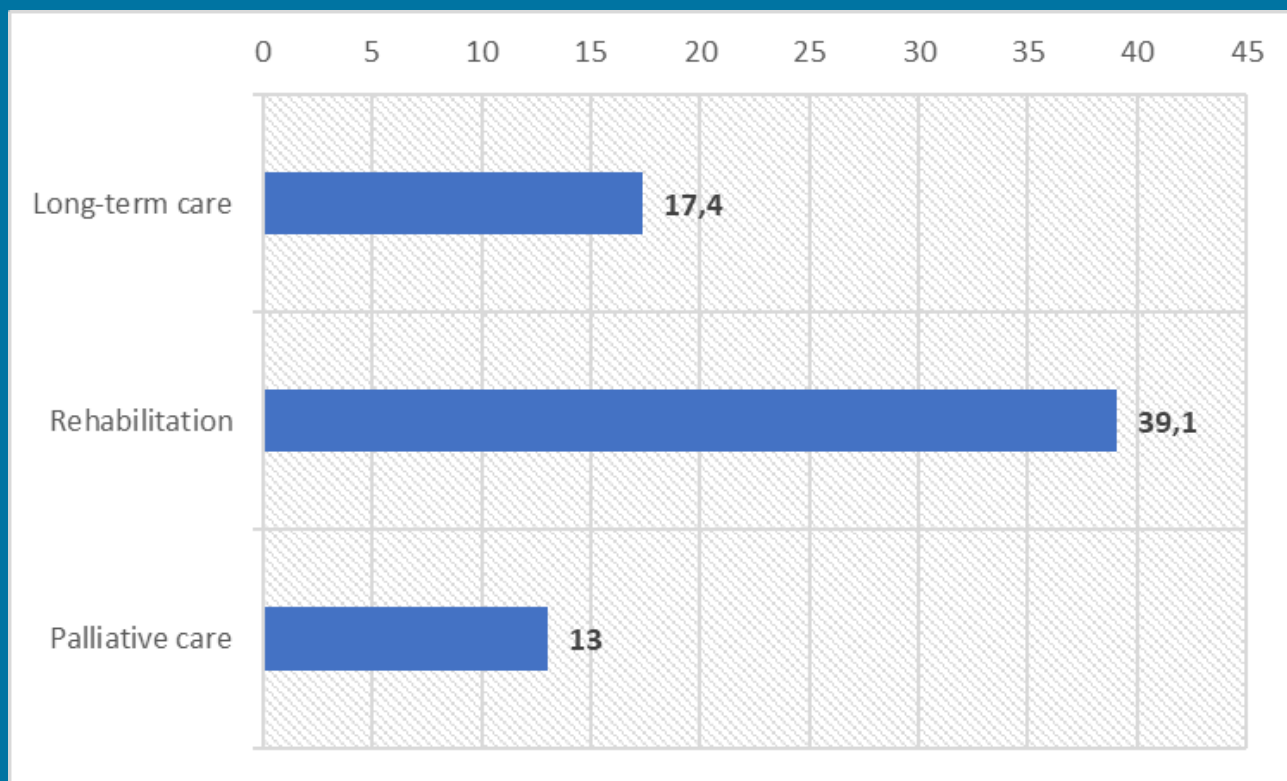
# LTC systems struggling before the pandemic

European LTC systems have faced a common set of challenges over the last decade:

- Large availability gaps – particularly in community settings and rural areas
- Low financial protection
- Financial sustainability while maintain care quality and diversifying provision
- Workforce stability and professionalization & support to informal caregiving

The lack of progress towards more sustainable solutions **has left LTC systems vulnerable and unprepared to react to a shock** like the Covid-19 pandemic

# The effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on continuity of LTC service provision in the European region



**Share of countries reporting disruptions of more than 5% to care services**

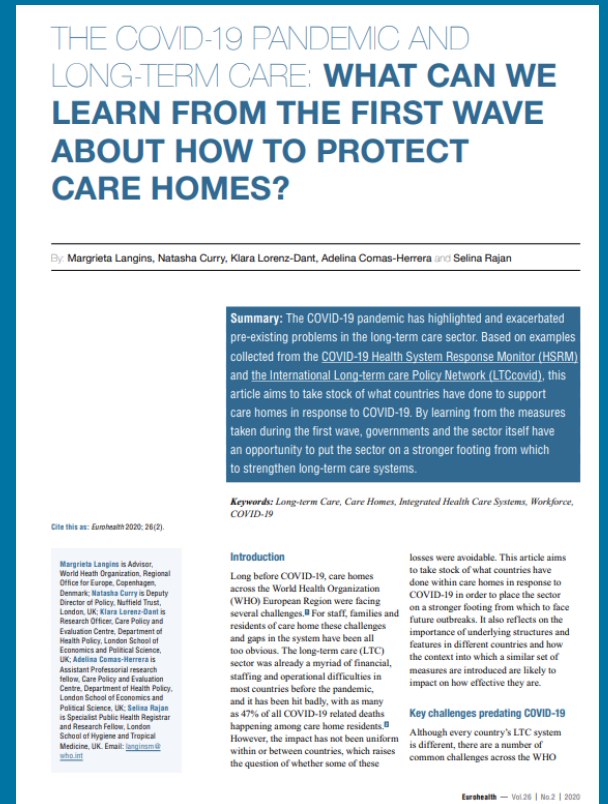
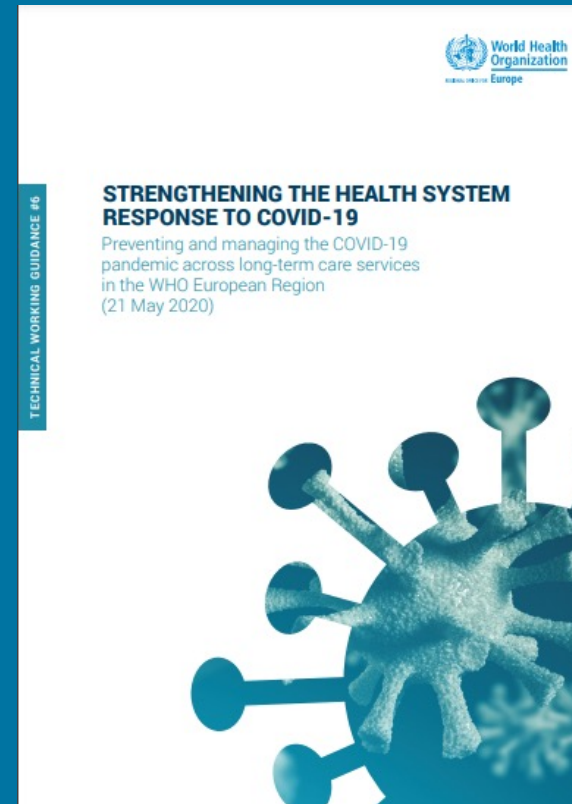
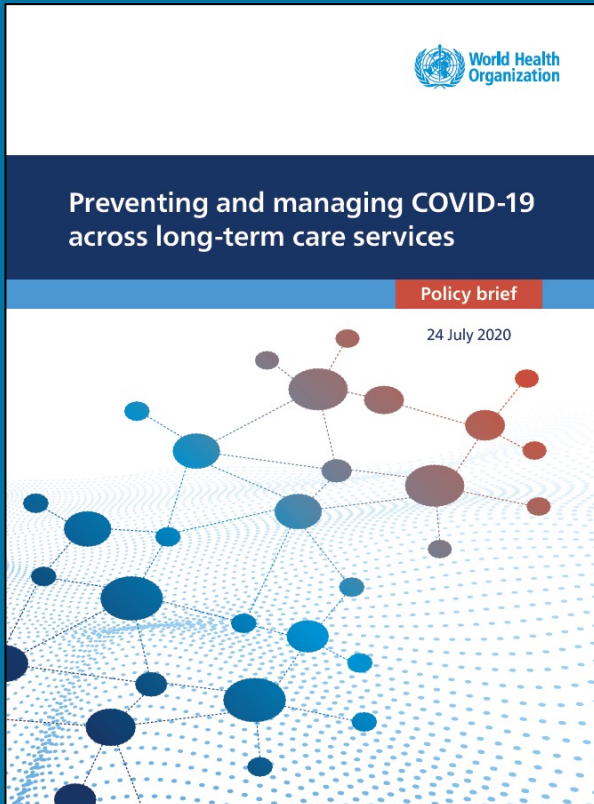
Source: WHO Pulse survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Round

# Strengthening care provision in the aftermath of the pandemic

The team at WHO Europe is working to support countries to strengthen long-term care provision with a focus on:

- Managing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Assessing and improving integrated care delivery
- Supporting cross national learning and the exchange of information
- Providing customized technical support

# WHO tools & guidance on LTC systems & COVID



# WHO tools to support the development of an integrated continuum of services



# Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development



## OBJECTIVE 4 - INVEST IN STRONG, RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

4.1 Increase all investments in health systems, particularly in those parts of systems that have traditionally attracted fewer resources

4.2 Invest in and strengthen the health workforce - supporting health and care workers throughout their careers

4.3 Reassess and strengthen the links between health and social care in the light of experiences during the pandemic, with the goal of increasing integration between them

4.4 Prioritise prevention of communicable and noncommunicable diseases and scaling up of investment in public health capacities

# Knowledge transfer & Technical support

WHO Europe LTC Forum - Monthly meeting of country representatives and experts from throughout the European region, dedicated to:

1. Discussing topics of broad interest for long-term care delivery and organization
2. Exploring and reflecting on policies and measures that are being pursued
3. Emphasizing country case studies and experiences

Requests for providing customized technical support over the next biennium from **10 countries in the region** & ad-hoc requests for information and support, on a broad range of topics

The WHO Europe team will be actively working over the next years on:

- Measuring & improving quality of care (in facilities & the community)
- Improving financial protection and equity in access to care
- Sustainability and resilience of care systems – investing in the care workforce and developing skills and competencies

# Thank you!

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